

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**VIRGINIA CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**USE EXCLUSION**

(Acre)

**Code 472**

**DEFINITION**

Excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area.

Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation, and maintenance of this practice.

Barriers may consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth fill, boulders, fences, gates, or signs.

**PURPOSE**

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources or minimize liability and human health concerns.

**ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION**

Livestock shall be permanently excluded from areas where woodland production, and/or fish and wildlife are the primary goals.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

In areas where vegetative establishment and maintenance, soil condition, water or air quality, and wildlife or aesthetic values are in need of protection. This practice is also applicable in areas where human and animal health and safety hazards are present.

Where both livestock and woodland production are goals, newly seeded, planted, or naturally restocked woodland or forestland shall be protected until the plantings grow sufficiently that grazing will not be harmful. For sheep, the trees should be at least three feet and for cattle, at least six feet.

**CRITERIA**

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals, or people, and not be a safety hazard.

On areas abused by overgrazing and/or soil compaction, exclusion shall last for several years in order to promote forage health, growth, under-story vegetation, and reduce soil compaction.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Wet areas and areas made up of soils susceptible to critical erosion shall be permanently protected.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purpose.

Watersheds used for municipal and domestic water supply where grazing will be detrimental to water quality and recreational areas where livestock use would be detrimental to environmental, aesthetic, or recreational goals shall have permanent protection.

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Livestock shall be excluded from streams that have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria.

Exclude livestock from perennial and intermittent streams and their corridors where livestock may cause excessive damage to riparian vegetation, streambanks, or stream stability, and farm ponds.

#### **ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR CRITICAL AREAS**

For critical area treatments, exclusion will last two years from date of establishment or until vegetation becomes well established.

On areas where ground cover is not adequate to protect soil erosion within acceptable limits, the time may vary from a minimum of one year to several years.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

All areas should consider existing or potential liability to the planning agency or the landuser based on safety, health, and public relations.

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement.

Barriers should account for and minimize public safety activities such as fire control.

Consider the effects of exclusion on water quantity and water quality.

Consider the need of livestock for shade by allowing access to small portions of woodland.

#### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using an approved format and/or narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable

documentation.

Specifications will include what is to be excluded, and the period, primary purpose(s), and method of exclusion.

#### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. NRCS, Virginia Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV.

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VIRGINIA CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**USE EXCLUSION  
Approved Practice Narratives  
(Acre)**

**CODE 472**

472 D1 Use Exclusion: Barriers, either natural or artificial, will be constructed to exclude livestock from areas needing protection to maintain or improve environmental factors, aesthetic value, or allow establishment of desired vegetation.

472 D3 Use Exclusion: Barriers, either natural or artificial, will be constructed to exclude people from areas needing protection to maintain or improve environmental factors, aesthetic value, or allow establishment of desired vegetation.

472 D2 Use Exclusion: Barriers, either natural or artificial, will be constructed to exclude people or animals from hazardous areas.

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